

# DNR News

## Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

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Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
402 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748

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## DNR announces historic preservation grants

Annual grants to strengthen Indiana's historical and cultural heritage have been awarded for 12 projects in nine Indiana communities.

The grants total \$379,839 in federal funds allotted by the DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology. They will be matched by \$327,012 in local and private funds, for a total projected investment of \$706,851.

These projects have received final federal approval and are to start immediately. The federal funds come from the National Park Service, a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which distributes federal funds to the states through the Historic Preservation Fund Program. Since 1974, the state has awarded more than \$17 million to Indiana communities through this program.

Projects for the 2012 funding cycle are:

**Aurora:** The Hillforest Historical Foundation received a \$25,000 grant to assist with the rehabilitation and stabilization of the Harris Cabin in Aurora. The cabin was discovered when a previous owner began remodeling part of the building that had been built around the cabin. As additions were demolished, the internal log structure was revealed. The owner donated the cabin and land to the Hillforest Foundation. The Harris Cabin is believed to be among the oldest pioneer cabins remaining in the state of Indiana, built c. 1821-22. Unfortunately, the foundation of the cabin is severely deteriorated. The project will include lifting and shoring the log structure, and installing poured-in-place concrete piers, and reconstructing the adjacent wall assemblies. This unique structure will contribute to the heritage tourism of the area through its proximity to the Hillforest National Historic Landmark and its location along the Ohio River Scenic Byway. [Contact: Cindy Schuette, Hillforest Historical Foundation, (812) 926-0087].

**Blackford County:** Ball State University's Department of Anthropology received a \$49,751 grant to conduct a Phase I survey of 900 acres in Blackford County to identify and record archaeological sites in the county, and enhance our understanding of the early Euro-American period. The project will focus on sites in the southern half of the county, mainly the Big Lick Creek and Little Lick Creek areas and in particular, Bowser's Station, and a reported burial hill. [Contact: Kevin Nolan, Ball State University, (765) 285-5328].

**Carroll County:** Adams Mill, Inc., received a \$20,000 grant to assist with the rehabilitation of the c. 1845 Adams Mill on Wildcat Creek near Cutler. Until the 1950s, the mill ground grain for area farmers, and beginning in 1912 also generated electricity for nearby communities. The mill once housed the Wildcat Post Office, a Masonic Lodge and a school room. It is one of few surviving and accessible mills in Indiana and is reputed to be one of the most completely preserved early grist mills in the country. Adams Mill is one of several important heritage tourism sites in Carroll County, and the grounds are often used for camping, picnicking, games, walkers and bikers. The mill also hosts historical reenactments, craft demonstrations, festivals, car shows, musical events, tours, weddings, reunions and other community events. [Contact: Lynn Corson, Adams Mill, Inc. (765) 564-2324].

**Fort Wayne:** The City of Fort Wayne received a \$7,488 grant to prepare a historic district nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Foster Park Historic District. The district is 1.5 miles from downtown and includes approximately 138 houses, built primarily in the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Contemporary and Ranch styles. In addition to the National Register nomination, the project will create and print 5,000 each of two brochures—one for the Foster Park National Register historic district and one for the pending Wildwood Park National Register historic district. [Contact: Don Orban, city of Fort Wayne, (260) 427-2160].

**Fort Wayne:** The Embassy Theatre Foundation received a \$50,000 grant to rehabilitate the terra cotta on the 1928 Embassy Theatre building. The theater was originally a movie and vaudeville venue and is surrounded by the L-shaped Indiana Hotel. A 1995 renovation included bringing the Embassy stage to modern standards and a restoration of the Indiana Hotel lobby. The exterior of both buildings are decorated with elaborate terra cotta, a lightweight material easier to handle and more economical than stone. It has been more than 20 years since building-wide maintenance has been performed on the terra cotta, and much of the terra cotta is weathered, cracked, and loose. This project initiates a three-phase effort to address terra cotta repair and also is the beginning of a regular maintenance program to monitor and maintain the historic material in a more cost-effective manner. The foundation will address terra cotta annually and costs for maintenance will be included in the theaters' yearly budget hereafter. [Contact: Kelly Updike, Embassy Theatre, (260) 424-6287].

**Hamilton County:** Ball State University received a grant for \$49,981 to conduct a Phase I survey of approximately 600 acres of agricultural land, and apply a new method of soil phosphate analysis to explore settlement patterns, resources management strategies, and the dynamics of culture contact during the Late Prehistoric period in Hamilton County. The county is experiencing rapid development and growth, particularly around Noblesville, Westfield and Carmel. The project will record imminently endangered cultural resources in the southern two-thirds of the county, particularly along the White River and its tributaries, while significantly improving our understanding of precontact cultural dynamics in central Indiana. [Contact: Chris Keller, Ball State University, (765) 285-5328].

**Hamilton County:** The Archaeological Survey of IPFW received a \$45,952 grant to assist with two weeks of a public archaeology program during Indiana Archaeology Month in September 2012 and six weeks of on-site field school investigations by IPFW in Strawtown Koteewi Park in Hamilton County. In the past ten years, IPFW-AS has worked with the Hamilton County Parks Department to assess and explore the unique archaeological heritage of the 750-acre Strawtown Koteewi Park. The 2013 investigations will be open to the public Tuesday-Saturday while a full

field crew of professional archaeologists is working. There are planned volunteer opportunities for the public to participate, as well. [Contact: Andrew Smith, IPFW, (260) 481-6194].

**Jasper County:** The Archaeological Survey at IPFW received a \$45,898 grant to conduct a Phase I reconnaissance survey of multiple high probability archaeological locations in Jasper County. The county contains important archaeological resources ranging from Paleoindian to the historic periods, but has only 68 sites currently recorded. It also has a population growth rate higher than other areas of Indiana and is being used for aggregate mining at an increasing rate. The project will field survey approximately 800 acres and identify cultural materials in the county, and employ a geographic information system (GIS) framework to begin research into the distribution of sites within the county. [Contact: Andrew Smith, IPFW, (260) 481-6194].

**Madison:** The City of Madison received a \$2,300 grant to prepare a brochure that explains the philosophy, rules, and procedures established by the Historic District Board of Review for the local ordinance historic district in Madison. It will define the kinds of actions that must be approved by the Historic District Board of Review. In addition, it will provide a basic overview of the state and federal tax credit programs for residential and income-producing properties in Indiana. The brochure will be mailed to all the properties and property owners in the downtown local ordinance district. [Contact: Camille Fife, city of Madison, (812) 274-2750].

**Martinsville:** The Morgan County Public Library received a \$39,425 grant to replace the roof, gutters and downspouts on the Martinsville Veteran's building. The c. 1915 building is a two-story, two-storefront vernacular commercial building of approximately 12,000 square feet. The building is threatened by the after-effects of a fire that destroyed the adjacent building to the east and by general neglect and deterioration over time, including roof leaks that are damaging the east wall, and the south wall of the building causing the floor girders, columns, and joists to rot. This project is important to secure the building for continued rehabilitation and reuse by the community. [Contact: Krista Ledbetter, Morgan County Library, (765) 342-3451].

**Martinsville:** Bradford Woods received a \$27,500 grant to stabilize and rehabilitate the 1850 Bradford House on the property of Bradford Woods in Morgan County. Bradford Woods is an auxiliary enterprise of Indiana University and is part of the academic mission of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and is a unit of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies. Bradford Woods hosts a wide range of groups and individuals through the five program areas and serves more than 17,000 visitors a year. Programs include therapeutic recreation, environmental education, adventure education, retreats, and Horseshoes of Hope. Several of these programs include "history hikes" or education on pioneering skills, local and Native American history, and the settlement of Indiana. Bradford Woods is currently in the process of preserving and rehabilitating other structures on the property, including the c. 1880 Campbell House, the c. 1900 Spring House, and the c. 1909 Carriage House in an effort to preserve the history of the property and provide hands-on history to visitors. [Contact: Shay Dawson, Bradford Woods, (765) 342-2915].

**Noblesville:** The Hamilton County Convention and Visitor's Bureau received a \$34,500 grant to assist with exterior rehabilitation of the c. 1849 Judge Stone House in Noblesville. Rehabilitation includes repair of masonry, foundation, and restoration of a window that had previously been remodeled into a door. The house is owned by the Hamilton County CVB and will serve as the headquarters for the Nickel Plate Arts Corridor, an arts and cultural initiative that involves six

communities. It will become a center for local artists, classes, exhibits, community gatherings, meetings, and concerts. [Contact: Betsy Jones, Hamilton County CVB, (317) 660-4033].

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**Media contact:** Malia Vanaman, DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, (317) 232-1648.